THOMAS ALLEN GIVENS

PLAINTIFF

VS.

No. 3939-2022

WAL-MART STORES, INC.,

DEFENDANT

TYPE OF PLEADING:

COMPLAINT IN CIVIL ACTION

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

FILED ON BEHALF OF: THOMAS GIVENS, PLAINTIFF

COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR THIS

PARTY:

ADAM YARUSSI, ESQUIRE

Pa.ID. No. 315389

ADAM YARUSSI & ASSOCIATES, LLC

31 N. Main Street, Suite 105 Washington, PA 15301 adamyarussilawoffice@gmail.com (724) 942-5111

JURY TRIAL DEMIANDED

NOTICE TO PLEAD

To: Defendant

You are hereby notified to file a written response to Plaintiff's Complaint within twenty (20) days from service hereof or a default judgment may be entered against you.

Counsel for Plaintiff

THOMAS ALLEN GIVENS

PLAINTIFF

VS.

No. 3939-2022

WAL-MART STORES, INC.,

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NOTICE TO DEFEND

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED IN COURT. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within TWENTY (20) DAYS after this Complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the Court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so, the case may proceed without you, and a judgement may be entered against you by the Court without further notice for any money claimed in the Complaint or for any claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER.

IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE 119 South College Street Washington, Pennsylvania 15301 Telephone number: 724-225-6710

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID SOCIETY
10 West Cherry Avenue
Washington, Pennsylvania 15301
Telephone number: 724-225-6170

THOMAS ALLEN GIVENS

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COMPLAINT IN CIVIL ACTION

AND NOW, comes Plaintiff, Thomas Givens, by and through his counsel, **ADAM YARUSSI & ASSOCIATES**, **LLC**, and sets forth his Complaint in Civil Action averring as follows:

PARTIES

- Plaintiff, Thomas Givens (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing at 105
 East High Avenue, Elco, PA 15434.
- Defendant, Walmart, Inc, (hereinafter "Defendant") is a Delaware corporation doing business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a principal place of business located at 702 S.W. 8th Street. Bentonville, AK 72716.
- Defendant operates a retail store Wal-Mart Supercenter #4501 located at a 134 Daniel Kendall Drive, Washington County, West Brownsville, Pennsylvania 15417.

JURISDICTION & VENUE

4. Venue and jurisdiction are proper in Washington County, Pennsylvania as all the Plaintiff is a resident of Washington County, Pennsylvania and Defendant's business operates within Washington County, Pennsylvania and all facts and occurrences took place at Wal-Mart Supercenter #4501 located in West Brownsville, Pennsylvania located Washington County, Pennsylvania.

FACTS

- 5. Defendant was charged by the West Brownsville Police Department for Retail Theft 18 Pa.C.S. § 3929 §§ A1 M-1 for allegedly committing a Retail Theft at Wal-Mart Supercenter located at 134 Daniel Kendall Drive, Brownsville, Pennsylvania 15417.
- Defendant, by and through its Loss Prevention Department's agent, employee, and/or contractor Chad Shontz, claimed Plaintiff was present at Wal-Mart Store, Inc.'s Wal-Mart Supercenter Store #4501 on May 13, 2021, and that Plaintiff was on security footage.
- 7. According to Loss Prevention Officer Chad Shontz, Mr. Shontz alleged that Plaintiff and two other individuals were observed in the tool section at Wal-Mart Supercenter Store #4501 selected several tools and place them into blue cloth bags.
- 8. Defendant's employee Chad Shontz indicated that Plaintiff set down the blue cloth bag with tools, and two other individuals exited the store through all points of sale.
- 9. Wal-Mart, Inc.'s Asset Protection Officer, Chad Shontz, published and/or communicated Plaintiff's name and identified Plaintiff as a criminal offender to the West Brownsville Police Department in order to file criminal charges against Plaintiff. (See Plaintiff's Attached Exhibit 1)
- Plaintiff was working on May 13, 2021 and was not present at Wal-Mart Supercenter Store #4501.
- 11. Defendant did not see the police report until after the June 17, 2021.

- 12. Plaintiff requested several times for a copy of the video surveillance video showing Defendant to be present at Wal-Mart Supercenter Store #4501 and even subpoenaed the video but never received a copy proving Plaintiff was present and/or committed the retail theft.
- 13. Plaintiff by and through Counsel file a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus at the Washington County Court of Common Pleas at Docket No. CR-1152-2921, where Defendant's case was dismissed by Senior Judge Katherine Emery with prejudice

COUNT I DEFAMATION THOMAS GIVENS V. WAL-MART STORES, INC.

- 14. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 13 as if though were fully set forth herein.
- 15. A statement is defamatory if it tends to harm the reputation of another so as to lower him in the estimation of the community or deter third persons from associating or dealing with him. 42 Pa.C.S. § 8343.
- 16. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's defamation, Plaintiff has suffered economic loss and general distress in an unliquidated amount with income loss to be determined in discovery.
- 17. Defendant's conduct was knowingly willful, malicious, and outrageous, and warrants imposition of punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Thomas Givens, demands compensatory, special, and punitive damages against Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., in a sum in excess of \$50,000.00 plus interests, costs, and fees, and any other relief that the court deems just and proper.

COUNT II NEGLIGENCE THOMAS GIVENS V. WAL-MART STORES, INC.

- 18. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 17 by reference as if more fully set forth herein.
- 19. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff acted with reasonable care and prudence, and neither contributed to nor caused the damages complained of herein.
- 20. Defendant, by and through its employees, agent, and/or contractors negligently and carelessly created an Asset Protection Record and communicated with the West Brownsville Police Department defaming Plaintiff calling Defendant by attesting that Defendant committed the crime of retail theft while present as a patron at Wal-Mart Supercenter Store #4501 in West Brownsville, Pennsylvania.
- 21. Defendant, by and through its employees, agents, and/or contractors, negligently and carelessly failed to investigate and ascertain the proper identity of person who truly committed a retail theft, negligently published the identify and informed the police of the wrong individual and carelessly published and/or orally communicated Plaintiff's name to the West Brownsville, Pennsylvania Police Department in order to institute criminal charges against Plaintiff for a Retail Theft criminal charge.
- 22. The damages and losses set forth below were the direct and/or proximate result of the negligence, carelessness, and/or recklessness of Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., in any and all of the following respects:
 - a. In failing to exercise reasonable care in a reasonable and prudent manner;
 - b. In failing to exercise due care and caution under the circumstances;

- c. Being otherwise negligent and careless reporting facts and at law;
- d. Negligently and falsely reporting Plaintiff's name to the West Brownsville,
 Pennsylvania Police Department in order to pursue criminal charges against Plaintiff;
- e. Plaintiff's name was held in ill repute in the community;
- f. Plaintiff has lost several job opportunities due to Plaintiff's pending criminal court action which was ultimately dismissed with prejudiced; and
- g. Plaintiff suffered anxiety and emotional distress due to Defendant's negligence, recklessness, and careless investigation of the allegations made against Plaintiff.
- 23. As a direct and/or proximate result of the above negligence, carelessness, and/or recklessness, Plaintiff has suffered the following injuries and damages including but not limited to:
 - a. Insomnia;
 - b. Emotional distress; and
 - c. shock and mental anguish;
- 24. As a result of his injuries, Plaintiff has undergone and continues to undergo great pain and suffering and inconvenience.
- 25. As a result of his injuries, Plaintiff has incurred and may continue to incur income losses and lost job opportunities.
- 26. As a result of his injuries, Plaintiff may have suffered a diminution of the ability to enjoy life and life's pleasures.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Thomas Allen Givens, demands compensatory, special, and punitive damages against Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., in a sum in excess of \$50,000.00 plus interests, costs, and fees, and any other relief that the court deems just and proper.

COUNT III INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS THOMAS ALLEN GIVENS V. WAL-MART STORES, INC.

- 27. Plaintiff, Thomas Allen Givens, incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 27 as if fully set forth herein.
- 28. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Defamation and Negligence set forth above, Plaintiff, Thomas Allen Givens, has experienced and suffered severe emotional distress and extreme mental pain, anguish, and suffering which has manifested itself physically in the form of nightmares, depression, anxiety, and/or loss of concentration.
- 29. As a result of the Defendant, Wal-Mart's Inc.'s, negligence and/or negligence committed against, Plaintiff, Anthony Ward, was caused by to suffer injuries in the nature of severe and ongoing emotional distress and mental anguish, the physical manifestations of which included sleeplessness, restlessness, anxiety, and discomfort.
- 30. As a result of the injuries, Plaintiff, Thomas Allen Givens, claims the following damages:
 - Past and future pain, suffering, mental anguish, discomfort, inconvenience, and distress;
 - b. Past and future embarrassment and humiliation;
 - c. Past and future loss of the ability to enjoy various pleasures of life;
 - d. Past and future loss of earnings and earning capacity;
 - e. All other damages as are permitted by law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Thomas Allen Givens, demands compensatory, special, and punitive damages against Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., in a sum in excess of \$50,000.00 plus interests, costs, and fees, and any other relief that the court deems just and proper.

COUNT IV <u>VICARIOUS LIABILITY-AGENCY LIABILITY</u> THOMAS ALLEN GIVENS V. WAL-MART STORES, INC.

- 31. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 30 as if fully set forth herein
- 32. Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. is vicariously liable for the negligent acts and/or commissions of Defendant's agents, servants, and/or employees, actual and/or apparent, by virtue of their actual relationship and/or Defendants' omissions, whose negligence is set forth fully throughout this Complaint in Civil Action.
- 33. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence, carelessness, and recklessness as more specially set forth above, Plaintiff, Thomas Allen Givens, has suffered those injuries and damages outlined about throughout this Complaint in Civil Action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Thomas Allen Givens, demands compensatory, special, and punitive damages against Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., in a sum in excess of \$50,000.00 plus interests, costs, and fees, and any other relief that the court deems just and proper.

Dated: June 7, 2022

Adam Yarussi, Esquire

Pa. Attorney I.D. No. 315389

ADAM YARUSSI & ASSOCIATES, LLC

31 North Main Street, Suite 105 Washington, Pennsylvania 15301

Phone: (724) 942-5111

THOMAS ALLEN GIVENS

PLAINTIFF

VS.

No. 3939-2022

WAL-MART STORES, INC.,

DEFENDANT

VERIFICATION

I, Thomas Givens, hereby verify that the facts set forth in the foregoing Complaint in Civil Action are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information or belief, and further state that I am authorized to make this verification.

This verification is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification

Dated: June 7, 2022

Thomas Givens

Thomas Givens, Plaintiff

5/18/2021

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Case- external their: 01-21-04501-0000023 (IC10103588892) - Guest(0) 0

ASSET PROTECTION CASE RECORD

Case ID

01-21-04501-0000023

Status

New

Location

04501 - WEST

BROWNSVILLE, PA

Division

Sub-Division Region

01 E 20

Market

Country

235

Store Address Store City

134 DANIEL KENDALL DR

·WEST BROWNSVILLE PA

Store State Store Zip Code

15417 15417

Additional Locations

No location was set

Suspect/Offender

THOMAS GIVENS (Customer)



No Picture Available

THOMAS GIVENS 10 BROCÇO LANE GRINDSTONE PA 15442 Phone N/A Cell Phone N/A

ID Number PA -31701327 Date of Birth 10/9/1997 (23 now) Employer Name Company name. Vendor Id Vendor Id.

No location was set

Summary

Suspect & Persons

Event Value/Evidence

Interview, Police & Court

Register Number

Operator Number ransaction Number Case Details

Event Value Summary

N \$288.80

Y 5270.61

Total \$559.41

MERCHANDISE \$559.41

All

Apprehension Information

* Event Date Weekday

5/13/2021

Thursday 12:10:00 PM

Time Apprehended

COSHONT.S04501_04501_US

WAL-MART

COSHONT.S04501_04501_US

Assisted By 1 [?] Assisted By 2 [?] * Affected Business

* Incident Type

Reporting UserID

Owner Group

Owner ID

Walmart

POLICE

NON-ASSOCIATE THEFT

* Sub-Type CONCEALMENT * Method of Crime [?]

* Location of Crime

* Location of Apprehension

IN SHOPPING BAG

FRONT ENTRANCE EXIT GM

N/A API

Apprehension (1)

Observed By: CHAD SHONTS APASM JENNY

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West Brownsville Police

5/18/2021 https://phont25640us.homeoffice.wai-mart.com/apis/apis260/PortalSystem/Apis/render.asp?Rec_ID=IC10103588892&Print=Yes First Observed: 12:10:00 PM Place Apprehended: NA Crime Tools: BAGS * Handcuffs Used by Wal-Mart Associate: NO Money on Suspect: Suspect/Offender (1) THOMAS GIVENS ID Number PA -31701327 10 BROCCO Date of Birth 10/9/1997 (23 how) LANE Employer Name Company name. GRINDSTONE Vendor ld Vendor ld. PA 15442 No location was set Phone N/A Cell Phone N/A No Picture Available Parent or Guardian Name (0) No record found Witness (0) No record found Persons Acting In Concert (0) No record found Persons With Knowledge (0) No record found Event Value (\$559.41 - 25 Items) * Item Type -* 5-Digit Store / Facility -UPC * Desc. * QtyUnit Total * Recovered? REQUIRED FOR REQUIRED FIELD(Use Price Price **ALL ITEMS** Leading Zeros - eg:00001) (Local)(Local) 1 MERCHANDISE 04501 88952636583 HT 3P 1/2 1 9.88 9.88 2 MERCHANDISE 04501 7681214538 HT 9P 10.84 10.84 Y STAR SOCKETS 3 MERCHANDISE 04501 HT 3P 3/8 1 Y 88952636582 8.88 8.88 https://phont25640us.homeoffice.wal-mart.com/apis/apis260/PortalSystem/Apis/render.asp?Rec_ID=IC10103588892&Print=Yes 2/6

West Brownsville Police

	04501		89073282488		RENCH		11.94	11,94	Y
5 MERCHANDISE	04501		7681214531	H 3/	11PC	1	12.88	12.88	Y
6 MERCHANDISE	04501		82090905821	н	20P 3/	81	17.88	17.88	Y
7 MERCHANDISE	04501		81002239974	н	2 1/2	1	16.88	16.88	Y
8 MERCHANDISE	04501		08209090058	20SE	τ	1	15.88	15.88	Y
9 MERCHANDISE	04501		7681214519	Н	3/8	1	7.88	7.88	Y
10MERCHANDISE	04501	1800	88952636584	U	3PC IIV INT	1	6.97	6.97	Y
11 MERCHANDISE	04501		81002239065	PA	16P SS IRU SE	1	21.97	21.97	Υ
12MERCHANDISE	04501		7681212757		1/2	1	10.97	10.97	Y
13MERCHANDISE	04501		81002239064	HF	3P IIVRSL	1		18.88	
14MERCHANDISE	04501		81002239817	HF RA	7P TCHET	1	29.88	29.88	Y
15MERCHANDISE	04501		08100223905	-	-	1	69	69	Y
16MERCHANDISE	04501		15245854888	5 PI	RATE	10	28.88	288.8	-
Total Case Value [?]		559		JA	CKETS				- 10
Total Case Value [?] Weapon (0)		559		JA	CRETS				
		559		JA	CRETS				
Weapon (0)		559	Evidence	JA	SKETS				
Weapon (0)	Dig	559	Evidence	JA	SKETS		0	ther	
Weapon (0)			Evidence	JA	Phys Sear Injur	chedies?	Contac d By	NO NO	
Weapon (0) No record found Evidence Photo Reason for No Evidence		rital	Evidence	JA	Phys Sear Injur * Tre Prior Re	chedies? spas Red cord	Contac d By	NO NO NA NO	
Weapon (0) No record found Evidence Photo Reason for No Evidence Evidence Location Evidence Custodian Case Recorded? VCR or DVR	e Photo	rital No	Evidence	JA	Phys Sear Injur * Tre Prior Re	checies? spas Record cord dent	Contact d By ss cord l Numbe : Numbe	NO NO NA NO	
Weapon (0) No record found Evidence Photo Reason for No Evidence Evidence Location Evidence Custodian Case Recorded? VCR or DVR DVR? CCTV CHAD S	e Photo	rital No YES	Evidence	JA	Phys Sear Injur * Tre Prior Re Inci Cust	checies? spas Record cord dent	Contact d By ss cord l Numbe : Numbe	NO NO NA NO	

View Control Breaks Tools Recovered	NO					
* Which departments' mercha Other	andise are involved in the recovery?(Chec	k all that apply)				
Please input other Departments						
D=15== (0)						
Police (0) No record found						
* Was an ORC form filled out		* Prosecuted? Y				
* Was Global investigations * Authority Referred To Admission Type	notified No MAG NO ADMISSION GIVEN	Promissory Note No Civil Demand Account				
Signed Statement * Disposition	NA CHARGES FILED	Rest Override 0 Promissory Note Amount Number of Payments Payment Start				
	/ehicle colorVehicle plateVehicle stateVeh	nice ageVehicie detail				
Interview (0)						
No record found						
No record found Court (0) No record found						
Court (0)	File Created Created	Created Provided to External Time Agencies				

5/18/2021

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ONLY LETTERS, NUMBERS, COMMAS, PERIODS AND HYPHENS ARE ALLOWED FOR SPECIAL CHARACTERS

* Enter time and date of which below described event 12:10:00 PM

* Case Details (Created by: COSHONT.S04501_04501_US - Created date: 5/18/2021 1:15:27 PM)

Created by - Created date

COSHONT.S04501_04501_US - 5/18/2021 1:15:27 PM

[more..

I CHAD SHONTS APA WORKING ON 5/13/21 OBSERVED 3 SUBJECTS NOW KNOWN TO ME AS ARRAM NELSON THOMAS GIVENS AND JACOB WOLFE IN THE TOOL SECTION SELECTING SEVERAL TOOLS AND PLACE THEM INTO BLUE CLOTH BAGS. THEY THEN SPLIT UP AS TOMAS AND ARRAM MADE THERE WAY TO THE FRONT DOORS PASSING ALL POINTS OF SALE WHERE APASM JENNY ASKED FOR THE RECIPT THEY DID NOT HAVE ONE AND SET THE BAG DOWN THOMAS EXITES THE STORE AND ARRAM RE ENTERED THE STORE AND EXITED OUT THE LG EXIT AND JACOB EXITED THE STORE AS WE WERE OUT ON THE SIDE WALK WITH POLICE GETTING A DECRIPTION OF THE CAR.WBV POLICE WERE ABLE TO STOP ARRAM IN THE LOT BUT THE OTHERE TOOK OFF IN A CAR.WBV POLICE WILL FILE ALL THE CHARGES.

Comments and Notes

Created by - Created date

No record found

Account Information

Account TypeAccount/xref NbrAccount Name

Rejection Notes

Created by - Created date

No record found

Tasks (0 Pending)

AssignerAssigneeDue DateTaskNotesStatusCompleted NotesDate CompletedOptions

No Tasks found for this element

Notifications (0)

No record found

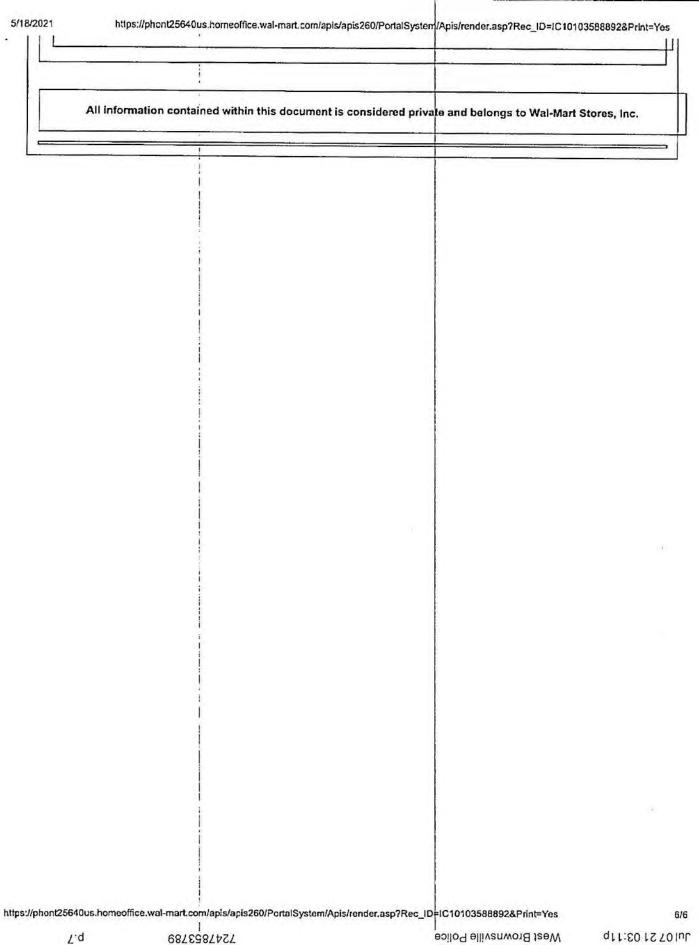
ALERTS AND MESSAGES

Created by - Created date

No record found

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5/6



THOMAS ALLEN GIVENS

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WAL-MART STORES, INC.,

DEFENDANT

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified*Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Dated: June 7, 2022

Adam Yarussi, Esquire

Pa. Attorney I.D. No. 315389

ADAM YARUŞSI/& ASSOCIATES, LLC

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